

# Forensic Psychologist – Ph. D

## Background –

A Forensic Psychologist uses psychological assessments with individuals within the legal system. Those in this field provide information regarding whether a child or adult offender has a mental health disorder that prevents him/her from going to trial, what the offender's mental state may have been during the time of the criminal offense, and what treatment might be appropriate for a particular defendant who has been convicted of a crime (APA Division 41). Daily duties of a Forensic Psychologist will vary depending on the balance of research versus clinical practice that they do. Working in the field will require work with court personnel, research regarding crime, violence risk assessments, treatment needs and response strategies.

**What can I expect to make in this career?** \$95, 710\*

**What classes at GVSU may help me in my career?** Discuss with your advisor which courses among those on this list, along with other courses not listed here, would best serve your career goals.

1. **PSY 302** – Psychology of Adjustment
2. **PSY 303** – Psychopathology
3. **PSY 310** – Behavior Modification
4. **PSY 330** – Behavioral Neuroscience
5. **CJ 201** – Criminology
6. **CJ 330** – Correctional Process
7. **CJ 340** – Court Process
8. **CJ 420** – Correctional Counseling
9. **CJ 482** – Culture, Crime, Justice



**What skills should a Forensic Psychologist strive to have?**

Interviewing skills, oral and written communication skills (report writing), critical thinking skills, emotional stability, cultural competency, strong statistics background and interpersonal skills, motivation and commitment.

**Employer Possibilities** - State of Michigan (government agencies), Universities, Private Organizations, Court Service Agencies

\*Bls.gov (2017) for "Forensic Psychologist)